



Urban Forests: Engaging With Sustainability at UIC

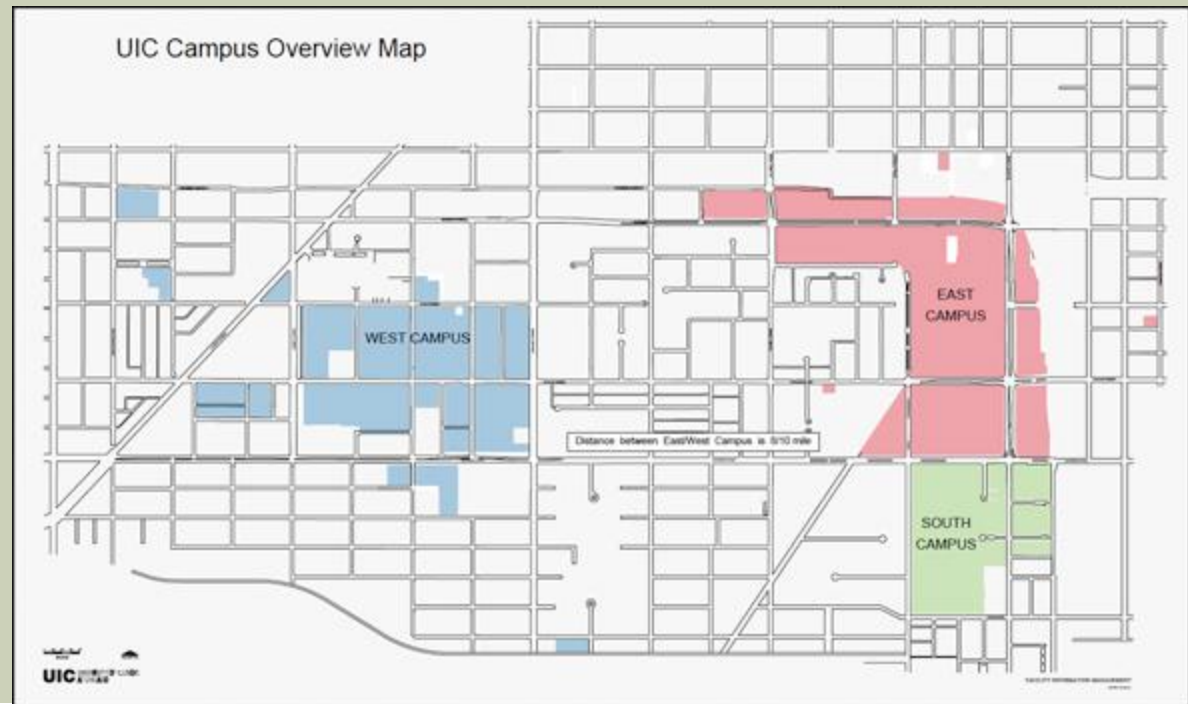
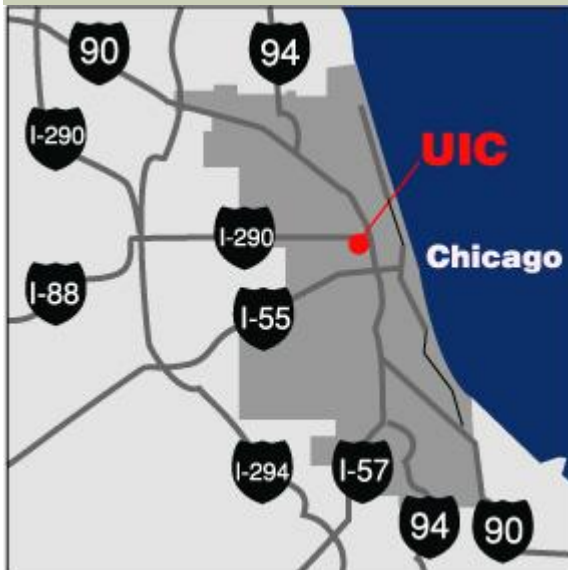
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OVERVIEW

- UIC campus forest background
- Campus forestry efforts
- What UIC has gained
- Future work

UIC BACKGROUND

- 4 year university west of Loop in Chicago
- 2 separate campuses make up 240 acres
- 27,000 students



UIC CAMPUS FORESTRY EFFORTS

- Managed by Facilities Management
 - ~5,300 trees over 240 acres
 - ~101 different species
- Plans called for increased management
 - UIC Strategic Plan
 - UIC Climate Action Plan
- Student and community engagement and education
 - Tree Campus USA
 - Tree inventory and management plan

TREE CAMPUS USA BACKGROUND

- Began in August of 2008
- Partnership between Arbor Day Foundation and Toyota
- Recognizes campuses that effectively manage campus trees, engage students and connect with community
- 2 or 4 year universities are eligible
- 580,000 students attend a tree campus school



TREE CAMPUS USA STANDARDS

1. Campus Tree Advisory Committee
2. Campus Tree Care Plan
3. Tree Care Program With Dedicated Annual Expenditures
4. Arbor Day Observance
5. Service Learning Project

STANDARD 1: CAMPUS TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- Advise on campus forest management, service projects, outreach
- Students, faculty, facilities, community
 - 5 graduate students
 - 2 faculty
 - 2 facilities
 - City of Chicago Senior Forester
- Brings together people of all backgrounds

STANDARD 2: CAMPUS TREE CARE PLAN

- UIC had no plan
- Utilized i-Tree Eco
 - Developed by US Forest Service
 - Urban forestry analysis and assessment

- Results
 - 5,376 trees
 - Store 1.7 million pounds of Carbon
 - CO, O3, NO2, PM10, SO2 removal
 - \$5 million in compensatory value



STANDARD 2: CAMPUS TREE CARE PLAN

1. Management Policies

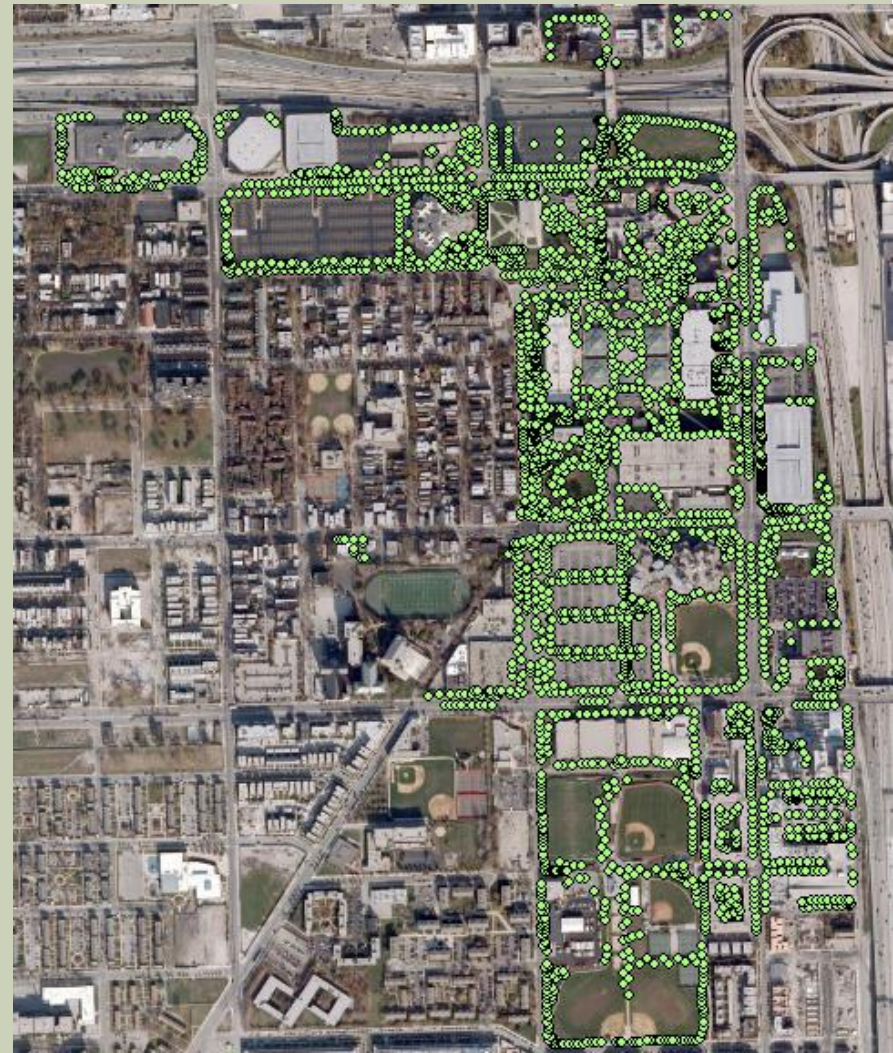
- a. Tree maintenance
- b. Species lists
- c. Preservation

2. Goals and strategies

- a. Maximize benefits
- b. Tree canopy
- c. Expenditures

3. Communication

- a. Students, faculty, facilities
- b. Contractors
- c. Surrounding community



STANDARD 3: CAMPUS TREE PROGRAM WITH EXPENDITURES

■ **Compiled tree-related expenditures**

- Worked with Facilities Management
- Detailed tracking

■ **Aim for \$3 spent per student**

- We're close (~\$2.56)
- Better tracking in the future should give a more accurate estimate

■ **Plan for the future**

- Know our budget needs
- How can we increase funding?

STANDARD 4: ARBOR DAY OBSERVANCE

- Educate campus community
- Started the process after Arbor Day
- Observance of overall forestry efforts
- Coincide with tree planting



STANDARD 5: SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT

- Involve students in management of campus trees
- Educational
- Interactive tree walk detailing i-Tree benefits



WHAT HAS UIC GAINED?

- **Student appreciation and engagement**
 - Forest benefits
 - Forest management
- **Understanding of our campus forest**
 - Inventory
 - Forest benefits
 - Expenditures
- **Tree management policies and goals**
 - Maintenance
 - Goals and strategies
- **Connection to the community**

FUTURE WORK

- **Online GIS portal**
 - Available to students and community
 - Data available for research
- **Further campus analysis**
 - Energy savings analysis
 - Soil analysis
 - Hydrology impacts
- **Maintenance of TCUSA**
 - Re-apply every year
 - Maintain committee, plan events
- **Grants/funding**



THANK YOU

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- <http://sustainability.uic.edu>
- www.arborday.org/treecampususa